

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 IO-11 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /086 W

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P 181741Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7730

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

AMCONSUL TANGIER

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

FOSIF ROTA

COMSIXTHFLT

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 0899

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PBOR MO SS SP MR AG

SUBJECT: SAHARA ROUNDUP

KUWAIT PASS BAGHDAD

USCINCEUR AND CINCUSNAVEUR ALSO FOR POLADS

1. GOM STANDS FIRM: FONMIN LARAKI IN PARIS MADE ADDITIONAL
SAHARA STATEMENTS FEB 17 WHICH TREATED AS EXPRESSION OF
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FIRMNESS IN PRESS. LARAKI EQUATED POLISARIO WITH ALGERIA AND

SAID MOROCCO COULD NOT REMAIN INDIFFERENT IN FACE OF ALGERIAN PROVOCATIONS. ATTRIBUTED TO ALGIERS FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR DETERIORATION OF SITUATION IN SAHARA AND DECLARED "MOROCCO HAS DECIDED TO CONFRONT THE AGGRESSION".

2. MISSING FRENCHMEN: LARAKI ALSO TOUCHED ON QUESTION OF MISSING FRENCH YOUTHS, DENYING THERE ANY TRUTH TO ALGERIAN VERSION OF EVENTS SURROUNDING THEIR DISAPPEARANCE. REVEALED THAT KING HASSAN HAD OFFERED EXCHANGE HUNDRED-ODD ALGERIAN PRISONERS FOR THE FRENCHMEN, BUT THAT ALGIERS HAD RESPONDED IT NOT INTERESTED IN THE PROPOSITION AT THE TIME. THIS QUESTION EXPANDED ON IN COMMUNIQUE FROM MOROCCAN EMBASSY IN PARIS WHICH SAID THAT KING'S PROPOSITION WAS MADE THROUGH IRAQI EMISSARY DURING RECENT MEDIATION ATTEMPTS. CONFUSION THUS REIGNS, BUT THERE SEEMS TO BE SOME HOPE THAT AT LEAST SOME OF FRENCHMEN STILL ALIVE.

3. MISSION IMPOSSIBLE? ACCORDING TO AFP REPORT IN YQAMI-OXCSCIAL LE MATIN FEB 18, ARAB LEAGUE SEC GEN RIAD HAS OFFERED "GOOD OFFICES" IN ATTEMPT TO DEFUSE SAHARA TENSENESS AND WILL VISIT RABAT, ALGIERS AND NOUAKCHOTT SHORTLY. SAID HE HAD SENT TELEGRAMS TO THREE CHIEFS OF STATE ASKING THAT THEY "GIVE CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE A CHANCE". L'OPINION (ISTIQLAL PARTY) CONCLUDED HIS MISSION WOULD FAIL, SINCE HE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO RECONCILE TRUTH HE WOULD FIND IN MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA WITH LIES HE WOULD HEAR IN ALGIERS.

4. PRESIDENT SENGHOR BACK IN THE SAHARA ACT WITH REMARKS IN GUADALUPE. SAID HE THOUGHT IT NOT TOO LATE FOR NEGOTIATIONS WHICH SHOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT UN RESOLUTIONS AND THE ALGERIAN/MOROCCAN FRONTIER ACCORD AS WELL AS THE TRIPARTITE MADRID AGREEMENT. COMMENTED THAT ARAB STATES ARE BEST SUITED TO OFFER GOOD OFFICES BUOUADDED THAT SENEGALESE AMB IN KUWAIT HAD BEEN ASSIGNED SPECIAL MISSION TO "CERTAIN NUMBER" OF ARAB STATES (HE MET WITH KING HERE FEB 17, SAME DAY AS MAURITANIAN DELEGATION).

5. IN RELATED ACTIVITY, SEMI-OFFICIAL PRESS RAN AFP REPORT FEB 18 THAT BOURGUIBA SENT "URGENT MESSAGE" TO QADHAFI. UN EMISSARY RYDBECK QUOTED AS SAYING IN VIENNA HE PREPARING CONFIDENTIAL

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WRITTEN REPORT ON SAHARA SITUATION AND WOULD RETURN TO THE TERRITORY IF NECESSARY AFTER REPORT COMPLETED.

6. HARD LINE FROM OPPOSITION: FOLLOWING HIS CONDEMNATION YESTERDAY OF ALGERIAN RESPONSE TO KING'S MESSAGE, ISTIQLAL PARTY SEC GEN BOUCETTA MADE "IMPORTANT STATEMENT" IN WHICH HE CITED CAPTURE OF SOLDIERS AND MATERIEL, INCLUDING SAM-7 MISSILES, AS PROOF OF MAJOR ALGERIAN INVOLVEMENT IN AMGALA

FIGHTING. SAID ALGERIA TRYING TO DRAW MOROCCO INTO WAR BUT MOROCCAN PEOPLE WILL ACCEPT NO PRESSURE OR BARGAINING ON THEIR TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND NATIONAL UNITY, AND STAND PREPARED MAKE THE "SUPREME SACRIFICE" FOR THEIR COUNTRY.

7. COMMENT: LARAKI'S PARIS REMARKS AND CONTINUING LOCAL REACTIONS OFFER LITTLE GROUNDS FOR OPTIMISM THAT SUN OF COMPROMISE WILL PEEP THROUGH CURTAIN OF OBDURACY DRAWN OVER SAHARA AFFAIR. RIAD EVIDENTLY PROCEEDING ON HIS OWN INITIATIVE, CONSEQUENTLY WITH LESS CLOUT HERE THAN ARAB LEAGUE MANDATE WOULD GIVE HIM. WE DOUBT HE WILL HEAR ANYTHING NEW AND PROMISING IN FES.
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